

# THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MISTERTON.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1909.

Misterton, Gainsburgh,  
January 29 h 1910.

Gentlemen, -I beg to submit to you my annual report as to the health and sanitary condition of the Misterton Rural District for the year 1909, together with the prescribed forms of sickness and mortality, as required by the Local Government Board.

I estimated the population of the District last year as 4234 5, and the number of inhabited houses as 941, giving an average of 4.5 persons per house.

The area of the district in acres is 14268, the density of the population is 0.29 persons to the acre, giving an average of 3.4 acres to each person.

### STATISTICS

94 births were registered during the year, 47 males and 47 females, this being equal to a birth rate of 22.2 per 1000. The average birth rate for the years 1899-1908 being 27.4 per 1000.

### MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered during the year occurring in the district was 46, of these 21 were females and 25 males. This is equivalent to a death rate of 10.8 per 1000.

The total death rate, that is to say, the number of deaths occurring in the district, together with the number of deaths occurring out of the district of persons recently residing therein was 51, giving a death rate of 12.1 per 1000.

The average death rate for the years 1899-1908 of persons dying in the district was 14.2 per 1000, and the average total death rate for the same period was 14.7 per 1000. Three deaths occurred in the Gainsburgh Union Workhouse, one in the Nottingham County Asylum, and one at Newark.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year was 15, equal to a death rate of 159.5 per 1000 births registered. The average for the previous ten years was 125.4.

The infantile death rate at first glance looks rather high for a country district but it must be taken into consideration that two of the children lived only 24 hours and another only 12 hours.

The following were the causes of death registered during the year.—Whooping cough 1, phthisis pulmonary 2, other tubercular diseases 2, cancer 4, bronchitis 3, pneumonia 3, heart disease 5, accidents 1, senile decay 10, cerebral hæmorrhage 4. Other causes 16.

The only inquest was held at Beckingham on the body of a man who fell from a ladder.

4 deaths were registered as uncertified, 2 being children and 2 adults.

8 persons died between 70 and 80 years of age, and 5 between 80 and 90 years; the two oldest were each 87 years and the youngest 12 hours.

### ZYNOTIC DISEASES

Only 12 cases were notified during the year, this being a great improvement upon last year when there were 48 notifications. These were diphtheria 2, erysipelas 5, scarlet fever 3, and enteric fever 2 cases. The districts affected were:

MISTERTON.—Diphtheria 2, erysipelas 4, enteric fever 1.

WALKERINGHAM.—Erysipelas 1, scarlet fever 3.

BECKINGHAM.—Enteric fever 1.

INFLUENZA was very prevalent during last winter in a rather severe form but no death was reported to have occurred directly from this cause.

MEASLES.—Except for a few isolated cases there has been no epidemic of this disease.

SMALL-POX.—No cases occurred during the year.

CHICKEN-POX.—Very few cases have occurred in this district.

SCARLET FEVER.—The cases of scarlet fever were confined to Walkeringham and occurred in February, evidently being the remains of the epidemic there.

No cases have occurred in Misterton for the last two years.

ERYSIPELAS.—Most of the attacks were of a recurrent nature, all except one case having had previous attacks.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were only two cases as against 12 last year. Both were females, one aged 42 and the other 14 years.

The patients were isolated, disinfectants supplied, and every precaution taken to prevent any further infection, and this was successful.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Two cases occurred during the year as against 3 last year, 1 was in Misterton in an adult. In this case the lid of the underground soft water cistern was defective and the surface water was found to be contaminating the drinking water. This has since been rectified.

The other case was at Beckingham, a youth who had been away and come home ill, evidently being infected whilst out of the district.

Both patients recovered. Last year there were 2 deaths out of 3 cases.

ENTERITIS.—There were very few cases and no deaths from this disease, owing probably to the cold weather we have experienced throughout the year.

A great factor in preventing this disease is cleanliness, and care in the preparation of the food, and feeding of infants. Each meal should be freshly made and not allowed to lie in the bottle for any length of time, and the bottles should be cleaned directly after using them.

### SCHOOLS.

The Infant Department of the Misterton schools remained closed for three weeks after the summer holidays on account of an epidemic of whooping cough.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is obtained from the rivers Trent and Idle, the Chesterfield Canal, shallow springs and rain water caught and stored in cisterns. All the water is hard, owing to the sulphate of lime it contains, except of course the rain water.

It is essential that the water be boiled well before use to ensure safety. The river Trent is polluted with sewage from the towns and villages on its banks.

### SANITARY WORK.

The following is the statement furnished to me by your Inspector:—

4 new closets were built.

150 yards of sewer piped in at Beckingham with 15in. pipes.

20 yards of sewer piped in at Walkeringham with 12in. pipes.

380 yards of sewer piped in at Misterton with 12in. sanitary pipes.

### THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907,

Has not yet been adopted by this Authority.

I enclose a list of the factories, workshops, bakehouses, etc., that your Inspector and I have visited during the year.

I have also visited the cowsheds in the district and found them clean whitewashed, generally in a satisfactory condition, with a fairly good supply of water.

There are 7 slaughterhouses in this district and these are periodically visited by your Inspector and myself, both during the slaughtering hours and at other times. The carcasses are examined and have always been found healthy, and the slaughterhouses clean and whitewashed. I am of opinion that the meat supply of the District is of a very high standard. All the meat is either fed in the District itself or it comes from a few miles radius.

I have forwarded a copy of this report, together with the statistical and factory lists to the Local Government Board, and the Nottingham County Council, and also a factory list to the Home Office.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WATT FARRAR, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health for the Misterton Rural District.

